

REMARKS

Claims 2 - 11, 13 - 23, 25 - 31, and 33 - 41 are currently pending in the instant application. Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 13 - 23, 25 - 31, and 33 - 41. Claims 2 - 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 7, 8, and 11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2 - 6 and 8 - 11 in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 2 - 6, and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,542,128 to Lomas ("Lomas"). Claim 2 is amended to recite "a crossover strap extending from one of the contoured panels to another contoured panel". As stated by the Examiner, claim 7 would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 2 as currently amended is, in effect, claim 7 rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 2 is allowable. It is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 2 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Lomas be withdrawn.

Claim 8 is amended to depend from allowable claim 2. Thus, claims 3 - 6, and 8 - 11 each depend from allowable claim 2. For the same reasons discussed above in conjunction with claim 2, it is believed that claims 3 - 6 and 8 - 11 are allowable. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 3 - 6, and 9 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of Lomas, the rejection of Claim 10 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of Lomas, and the objection to claims 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

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It is believed that all outstanding objections and rejections have been addressed. It is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner is of the opinion that certain aspects of the application are not in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that an Advisory Action be mailed immediately and/or that the Examiner contact the applicant at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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